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## House to vote on same-sex marriage, responding to high court



House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., leads a hearing on the future of abortion rights following the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the Supreme Court, at the Capitol in Washington, July 14, 2022.

Associated Press



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## House to vote on same-sex marriage, responding to high court

From Front

By LISA MASCARO

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. House prepared to vote Tuesday on legislation to protect same-sex and interracial marriages amid concerns that the Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade abortion access could jeopardize other rights criticized by many conservative Americans.

With a robust but lopsided debate, Democrats argued intensely in favor of enshrining marriage equality in federal law, while Republicans steered clear of openly rejecting gay marriage. Instead leading Republicans portrayed the bill as unnecessary amid other issues facing the nation.

Tuesday's election-year roll call was partly political strategy, forcing all House members, Republicans and Democrats, to go on the record with their views. It also reflected the legislative branch pushing back against an aggressive court that has sparked fears it may revisit apparently settled U.S. laws.

"For me, this is personal," said Rep. Mondaire Jones, D-N.Y., who said he was among nine openly gay members of the House.

"Imagine telling the next generation of Americans, my generation, we no longer have the right to marry," he said. "Congress can't allow that to happen."



**Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks as an aide puts up a poster depicting a 1974 quote from then Sen. Joe Biden where he said that the Roe v. Wade decision "went too far" during a Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing to examine a post-Roe America, focusing on the legal consequences of the Dobbs decision, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 12, 2022.**

Associated Press

Wary of political fallout, GOP leaders did not direct their lawmakers to hold the party line against the bill, aides said. Dozens of Republicans were expected to join Democrats in voting for passage.

While the Respect for Marriage Act is expected to pass the House, with a Democratic majority, it is almost certain to stall in the evenly split Senate, where most Republicans would likely join a filibuster to block it. It's one of several bills, including those enshrining abortion access, that Democrats are proposing to confront the court's conservative majority. Another bill, guaranteeing access to contraceptive services, is set for a vote later this week.

Polling shows a majority of

Americans favor preserving rights to marry whom one wishes, regardless of the person's sex, gender, race or ethnicity, a long-building shift in modern mores toward inclusion.

A Gallup poll in June showed broad and increasing support for same-sex marriage, with 70% of U.S. adults saying they think such unions should be recognized by law as valid. The poll showed majority support among both Democrats (83%) and Republicans (55%). Approval of interracial marriage in the U.S. hit a six-decade high at 94% in September, according to Gallup.

"The extremist right-wing majority on the Supreme Court has put our country down a perilous path," said Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon,

D-Pa., in a floor speech setting Tuesday's process in motion.

"It's time for our colleagues across the aisle to stand up and be counted. Will they vote to protect these fundamental freedoms? Or will they vote to let states take those freedoms away?"

But Republicans insisted Tuesday that the court was only focused on abortion access in June when it struck down the nearly 50-year-old Roe v. Wade ruling, and they argued that same-sex marriage and other rights were not threatened.

In fact, of all the Republicans who rose to speak during the morning debate, almost none directly broached the subject of same-sex or interracial marriage.

"We are here for a political charade, we are here for political messaging," said Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee.

As several Democrats spoke of inequalities they said that they or their loved ones had faced in same-sex marriages, the Republicans talked about rising gas prices, inflation and crime, including recent threats to justices in connection with the abortion ruling.

Even if it passed the House with Republican votes, as seemed likely, the outcome in the Senate is uncertain.

"I'm probably not inclined to support it," said Sen. Josh

Hawley, R-Mo. "The predicate of this is just wrong. I don't think the Supreme Court is going to overturn any of that stuff."

For Republicans in Congress the Trump-era confirmation of conservative justices to the Supreme Court fulfilled a long-term GOP goal of revisiting many social, environmental and regulatory issues the party has been unable to tackle on its own by passing bills that could be signed into law.

But in a notable silence, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell declined to express his view on the bill, leaving an open question over how strongly his party would fight it, if it even comes up for a vote in the upper chamber.

The Respect for Marriage Act would repeal a law from the Clinton era that defines marriage as a heterogeneous relationship between a man and a woman. It would also provide legal protections for interracial marriages by prohibiting any state from denying out-of-state marriage licenses and benefits on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity or national origin. The 1996 law, the Defense of Marriage Act, had basically been sidelined by Obama-era court rulings, including *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which established the rights of same-sex couples to marry nationwide, a landmark case for gay rights.□



**California Highway Patrol officer Troy Christensen runs a driver's license after stopping a motorist along Interstate 5 who was suspected of speeding on April 23, 2021, in Anaheim, Calif.**

Associated Press

**DETROIT (AP)** — The U.S. government's road safety agency says it will spend \$8 million on ads aimed at

stemming the rising number of traffic deaths caused by speeding.

The National Highway Traf-

## Highway safety agency running ads in effort to curb speeding

fic Safety Administration campaign called "Speeding Wrecks Lives" will run on television, radio and digitally, targeting drivers from ages 18 to 44.

The agency says 11,258 people died in speed-related crashes in 2020, up 17% from 2019 even though there was less traffic on the roads in 2020 because of the pandemic. Speed contributed to 29% of all fatal crashes, with 87% of speed-related deaths happening on local roads, not inter-

state highways.

The Governors Highway Safety Association, representing state traffic safety offices, says the death trend continued last with speed killing nearly 12,000 people in 2021.

"Speed-related deaths aren't inevitable," said Steven Cliff, NHTSA administrator. "They're preventable, and everyone has a role in addressing this crisis."

The ads will run in English and Spanish and air from July 20 through Aug. 14.

The agency announced the campaign Tuesday at an event in Los Angeles.

Nearly 43,000 people were killed on U.S. roads last year. That's the highest number in 16 years as Americans returned to the highways after the pandemic forced many to stay at home.

Traffic deaths rose 10.5% over 2020, the largest percentage increase since the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began its fatality data collection in 1975.□

## Biden order aims to punish captors of Americans held abroad

By ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden signed an executive order Tuesday aimed at increasing the flow of information to families of Americans detained abroad and at imposing sanctions on the criminals, terrorists or government officials who hold them captive.

It is unclear if the new order will result in bringing home more Americans jailed in foreign countries, but senior Biden administration officials who previewed the action to reporters said they regard it as an important way to raise the cost of hostage-taking and to punish captors.

The executive order is being announced as the administration faces criticism from some families over a perceived lack of creativity and aggressiveness in getting their loved ones home.

It also comes as the ongoing detention in Russia of WNBA star Brittney Griner has brought increased attention to the population of Americans who are jailed abroad and designated by the U.S. as wrongfully detained.

The action relies on a section of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act — named after a retired FBI agent who vanished in Iran 15 years ago and is now presumed dead — that authorizes the president to impose sanctions, including visa revocations, on people believed to be involved in the wrongful detention of Americans.

In this case, officials said, that could apply to government officials or to criminals or terrorists unaffiliated with a government. Since sanctions may not always help facilitate a jailed

American's release — Russia's invasion of Ukraine, for instance, has proceeded despite a wave of economic sanctions from Western allies — such punishment is expected to be used judiciously, according to one official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the administration.

Another element of the order will direct federal agencies to do better at sharing information and intelligence with families of detainees about the latest status of their case and efforts to get their loved one home.

In addition, the State Department is adding a new risk indicator to its country-specific travel advisories



President Joe Biden speaks on the South Lawn of the White House, July 11, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

to warn travelers about nations where there's believed to be an elevated risk of detention.

The department already uses foreign travel risk indicators for categories including crime, health

and kidnapping. Officials said the new risk indicator, marked as "D" for detention, will be applied at least initially to the following countries: Burma, China, Iran, North Korea, Russia and Venezuela.□

## Hoover Dam transformer explodes; no one hurt

By KEN RITTER  
Associated Press

**BOULDER CITY, Nev. (AP)** — A transformer exploded Tuesday at Hoover Dam, producing a cloud of thick, black smoke and flames that were quickly extinguished. No one was hurt and electricity continued to flow from one of the nation's largest hydroelectric facilities, authorities said.

"There is no risk to the power grid," according to Jacklyn L. Gould, the federal Bureau of Reclamation's regional director for the Lower Colorado Region. The fire ignited around 10 a.m. and was out within a half-hour, she said.

Hoover Dam, located on the Nevada-Arizona border about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southeast of Las Vegas, is a popular tourist destination and some of the visitors captured the scene on video and quickly shared it on social media. William Herro, 13, of San Francisco, was on a viewing bridge with his parents when he saw the explo-

sion and then heard a "big boom."

"A ton of black smoke just exploded in the air. It looked almost like a mushroom and then a fire followed," said Herro, who posted cellphone video of it on TikTok. "I was really surprised and I started filming." The postings showed the explosion occurred at a building slightly downstream from the base of the dam. The complex is in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River.

The cause of the fire is under investigation and it's not clear how extensive the damage was to the transformer.

According to the Bureau of Reclamation, the dam is the second-tallest in the U.S. at 726 feet (221 meters). Each of its 17 generators can supply electricity to 100,000 households.

As many as 20,000 vehicles a day drive across the wide top of the dam, which is a National Historic Landmark.□



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## Sheriff says prison reform advocate committed ‘evil act’

By TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — A prominent prison reform advocate committed an “evil act” when he disguised himself as a construction worker to hide guns, handcuff keys and hacksaw blades inside the walls of an under-construction Tennessee jail, Nashville Sheriff Daron Hall testified in court Tuesday. Alex Friedmann is charged with vandalism over \$250,000 in a case that Deputy District Attorney Amy Hunter told the jury in opening statements would sound like a “made up case from a Hollywood movie.”

Hunter said Friedmann had already been going in the building for several months when a sheriff’s office official first noticed in December 2019 that two keys were missing from a set of keys at the new \$150 million Downtown Detention Center. Surveillance video showed the same person who took the keys entering the jail numerous times and doing some type of work on the walls. When he entered again on Jan. 4, 2020, Friedmann was stopped in a secure area while the police were called. During the wait, Friedmann took jail schematics out of his pocket,



Alexander Friedmann listens during the first day of his trial at the Justice A.A. Birch Building in Nashville, Tenn., Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

Associated Press

et, ripped them up and ate them, Hunter said.

As an activist against prison privatization, Friedmann had worked with Hall on the future of another Nashville jail — one that had been privatized but was returning to the control of the sheriff’s office. That is why Hall knew the security breach was serious when he learned the intruder was Friedmann.

“We knew if Alex Friedmann had been up to any good, he would have come to us and we would

have provided him with information,” Hall testified. “We knew we were not talking about some casual occurrence here.”

Much of what Friedmann did in the jail is undisputed. It is on camera. His motives are unknown. There were no written records discovered that explained a plan, and Friedmann is unlikely to testify at trial. Hall has suggested Friedmann was planning a massive jailbreak. The theft of the keys was discovered just a

couple of weeks before the facility was scheduled to open. Speaking to reporters after his testimony Tuesday, Hall said they were just “two weeks away from a massive loss of life.”

But defense attorney Ben Raybin told the jury in opening statements that their job is not to determine the morality of what Friedmann did. Since the facts are not in dispute, the main question for the jury will be whether the government is exaggerating the amount

of damage to the building. To arrive at a charge of vandalism over \$250,000, prosecutors said they will show that the entire facility had to be re-keyed at a cost of just over \$291,000.

Defense attorney David Raybin noted that an early news release from the sheriff’s office said that between 85 to 100 locks would need to be replaced, while the final total included rekeying 1,800 locks.

The government also argued that Friedmann’s vandalism includes more than \$300,000 in personnel costs incurred when sheriff’s officers reviewed thousands of hours of surveillance video.

Ben Raybin said in opening statements that the state is overcharging Friedmann.

He urged the jury to look to the law and only hold Friedmann responsible for the actual physical damages to the jail.

Sheriff Hall testified he made the decision right away to change all the locks as a necessity for being able to open and use the new jail.

“There were many times when I thought we would never reopen the building and it would sit vacant for the rest of my tenure” he said. □



In this image taken from video, a structure burns during a wildfire in Palo Pinto County, Texas on Monday, July 18, 2022.

Associated Press

By TERRY WALLACE and

KEN MILLER

Associated Press

A wildfire has burned at least five homes and resulted in about 300 homes being evacuated around a lake in north Texas amid sweltering temperatures and dry conditions, authorities said.

Many of the residents returned home Tuesday, but the area remained under a voluntary evacuation notice, the Texas A&M Forest Service said.

The fire at Possum Kingdom Lake about 70 miles (113 kilometers) west of Fort Worth, which began Monday afternoon, had

## Wildfire burns homes around lake in Texas amid high heat

burned about 500 acres (202 hectares) and was 10% contained Tuesday, forest service spokesman Adam Turner said.

Firefighting crews were working around the clock, focusing on protecting threatened homes in resort subdivisions along the lake’s western shore, the forest service said.

Eight structures are known to have been lost to its flames, but it was not clear how many of those were residences or businesses, state forest service spokeswoman Mary Leathers said. The fire, which began Monday afternoon, was just 10% contained after blackening about 4,000 acres

(1,600 hectares) as of mid-day Tuesday, and crews using bulldozers were digging containment lines while fire trucks and aircraft worked to extinguish the flames, the forest service said.

No injuries have been reported from the fires, and their causes were under investigation. A combination of near-record- and record-high temperatures approaching 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius) combined with breezes gusting as high as 30 mph (40-50 kph) and drought conditions to leave the region ripe for fire, the forest service said.

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag

fire warning for northern and central Texas and western and eastern Oklahoma for Tuesday.

“We are experiencing dry fuels to a level that we haven’t seen in the past 10 years,” Turner said.

“Any spark that lands in tall grass or even lands in some short grass right now is liable to spark.”

Wildfires and intense heat in Texas and some other parts of the United States come as unusually hot, dry weather has gripped large swaths of Europe since last week, triggering wildfires from Portugal to the Balkans and leading to hundreds of heat-related deaths. □

## China threatens 'strong measures' if Pelosi visits Taiwan

**BEIJING (AP)** — China will take "resolute and strong measures" should the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi proceed with reported plans to visit Taiwan, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Pelosi, who is second in line to the presidency, is due to visit the self-governing island China claims as its own territory in August, according to a report in the Financial Times. She was originally scheduled to visit in April but had to postpone after she tested positive for COVID-19. Pelosi would be the highest ranking American lawmaker to visit the close U.S. ally since her predecessor as speaker, Newt Gingrich, traveled there 25 years ago. China has vowed to annex Taiwan by force if necessary, and has advertised that threat by flying warplanes near Taiwanese airspace and holding military exercises based on invasion scenarios. It says those actions are aimed at deterring advocates of the island's formal independence and foreign allies



**U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks at her weekly press conference, July 14, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington.**

Associated Press

- principally the U.S. - from coming to its aid, more than 70 years after the sides split amid civil war. A visit by Pelosi would "severely undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, gravely impact the foundation of China-U.S. relations and send a seriously wrong signal to Taiwan independence

forces," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijiang said at a daily briefing. "If the U.S. were to insist on going down the wrong path, China will take resolute and strong measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Zhao said. China in recent days has also ratcheted up its rhetor-

ic over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, demanding the cancellation of a deal worth approximately \$108 million that would boost its armed forces' chances of survival against its much bigger foe. China has the world's largest standing military, with an increasingly sophisticated navy and a huge inventory of missiles

pointed across the 180 kilometer (100 mile) -wide Taiwan Strait.

While Washington maintains a policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether it would defend Taiwan in a conflict with China, U.S. law requires it must ensure the island has the means to defend itself and consider threats to its security as matters of "grave concern." Washington maintains only unofficial relations with Taiwan in deference to Beijing, but is the island's strongest political ally and source of defensive arms.

Zhao gave no details about what potential actions China might take in response to Pelosi's visit, but Beijing has generally used military flights and war games to indicate its discontent. Chinese pilots have also been accused of aggressive action toward surveillance aircraft from the U.S. and its allies operating in international airspace off the Chinese coast, while using lasers and other methods to harass foreign warships in the South China Sea. □

## Methanol in blood of teens who died in South African tavern

**By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME**  
**Associated Press**

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — The toxic chemical methanol has been identified as a possible cause of the deaths of 21 teenagers at a bar in the South African city of East London last month. Methanol was found in all of their bodies and investigations are continuing to determine whether the levels of the toxic chemical were enough to have killed them.

"Methanol has been detected in all the 21 individuals that were there, however there is still progressive analysis of the quantitative levels of methanol and whether it could have been the final cause of death," Dr. Litha Matiwane, Eastern Cape provincial deputy director for clinical service, said at press conference in East London Tuesday.

Authorities are still awaiting

the conclusive results which are being conducted at a laboratory in the city of Cape Town, he said.

Methanol is a toxic form of alcohol that is used industrially as a solvent, pesticide or an alternative source of fuel. It is not used in the production of alcohol sold for human consumption.

It is yet not known how the youngsters ingested the methanol.

Alcohol poisoning and inhalation of carbon monoxide have both been ruled out as possible causes of death although traces of both were detected in the bodies of all 21 victims, said Matiwane.

The teenagers died at the Enyobeni tavern in East London's Scenery Park township in the early hours of June 26, shocking the country and resulting in several investigations by the police and liquor license

authorities. Many of the teens, ranging in age between 13 and 17, were found dead in the tavern, with their bodies strewn across tables and couches. Others died after they were rushed to nearby health facilities.

South Africa's police will be guided by the final results of the toxicology analysis to determine whether anyone will face criminal charges for the 21 deaths, national police minister Bheki Cele has said.

The owner of Enyobeni tavern and some employees were arrested and are currently out on bail as they face charges related to the violation of liquor trading laws, including the sale of liquor to children.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke at a mass funeral for the teens and vowed his government would take action



**A body is removed from a nightclub where 21 teenagers died in the early hours of the morning, in East London, South Africa, Sunday June 26, 2022.**

Associated Press

to prevent alcohol from being served to children under the legal drinking age of 18.

The deaths of the young people at the bar in East London are separate from the shootings at three bars in South Africa earlier this month in which a total of 22 people were killed. □

In all three incidents, the suspects opened fire on patrons before speeding off in their vehicles and notably the attackers did not rob the victims. In the worst incident, gunmen burst into a bar in Johannesburg's Soweto township and opened fire, killing 16 people. □

# U.K. breaks record for highest temperature as Europe sizzles

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS

**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain shattered its record for highest temperature ever registered Tuesday amid a heat wave that has seared swaths of Europe, as the U.K.'s national weather forecaster said such highs are now a fact of life in a country ill-prepared for such extremes.

The typically temperate nation was just the latest to be walloped by unusually hot, dry weather that has triggered wildfires from Portugal to the Balkans and led to hundreds of heat-related deaths. Images of flames racing toward a French beach and Britons sweltering even at the seaside have driven home concerns about climate change.

The U.K. Met Office weather agency registered a provisional reading of 40.3 degrees Celsius (104.5 degrees Fahrenheit) at Coningsby in eastern England breaking the record set just hours earlier. Before Tuesday, the highest temperature recorded in Britain was 38.7 C (101.7 F), set in 2019. By later afternoon, 29 places in the UK had broken the record.

As the nation watched with a combination of horror and fascination, Met Office chief scientist Stephen Belcher said such temperatures in Britain were "virtually impossible" without human-driven climate change.

He warned that "we could see temperatures like this every three years" without serious action on carbon emissions.

The sweltering weather has disrupted travel, health care and schools. Many homes, small businesses and even public buildings, including hospitals, in Britain don't have air conditioning, a reflection of how

unusual such heat is in the country better known for rain and mild temperatures. The intense heat since Monday has damaged the runway at London's Luton airport, forcing it to shut for several hours, and warped a main road in eastern Eng-

ditional mounted troops of the Household Cavalry as they stood guard in central London in heavy ceremonial uniforms. The length of the changing of the guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace was shortened. The capital's Hyde Park, nor-

danger of death even for healthy people.

Such dangers could be seen in Britain and across Europe. At least six people were reported to have drowned while trying to cool off in rivers, lakes and reservoirs across the U.K.

very common occurrence or remains relatively infrequent is in our hands and is determined by when and at what global mean temperature we reach net zero."

Extreme heat broiled other parts of Europe, too. In Paris, the thermometer in the French capital's oldest weather station – opened in 1873 – topped 40 C (104 F) for just the third time. The 40.5 C (104.9 F) measured there by weather service Meteo-France on Tuesday was the station's second-highest reading ever, topped only by a blistering 42.6 C (108.7 F) in July 2019. Drought and heat waves tied to climate change have also made wildfires more common and harder to fight.

In the Gironde region of southwestern France, ferocious wildfires continued to spread through tinder-dry pine forests, frustrating firefighting efforts by more than 2,000 firefighters and water-bombing planes.

Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated from homes and summer vacation spots since the fires broke out July 12, Gironde authorities said.

A smaller third fire broke out late Monday in the Medoc wine region north of Bordeaux, further taxing resources. Five camping sites went up in flames in the Atlantic coast beach zone where blazes raged around the Arcachon maritime basin famous for its oysters and resorts.

In Greece, a large forest fire broke out northeast of Athens, fanned by high winds. Fire Service officials said nine firefighting aircraft and four helicopters were deployed to try to stop the flames from reaching inhabited areas on the slopes of Mount Penteli, some 25 kilometers (16 miles) northeast of the capital. Smoke from the fire blanketed part of the city's skyline.

But weather forecasts offered some consolation, with temperatures expected to ease along the Atlantic seaboard Tuesday and the possibility of rains rolling in late in the day. □



A police officer gives water to a British soldier wearing a traditional bearskin hat, on guard duty outside Buckingham Palace, during hot weather in London, Monday, July 18, 2022.

Associated Press

land, leaving it looking like a "skatepark," police said. Major train stations were shut or near-empty Tuesday, as trains were canceled or ran at low speeds out of concern rails could buckle.

London faced what Mayor Sadiq Khan called a "huge surge" in fires because of the heat. The London Fire Brigade listed 10 major blazes it was fighting across the city Tuesday, half of them grass fires. Images showed several houses engulfed in flames as smoke billowed from burning fields in Wenvington, a village on the eastern outskirts of London. Sales of fans at one retailer, Asda, increased by 1,300%. Electric fans cooled the tra-

mally busy with walkers, was eerily quiet except for the long lines to take a dip in the Serpentine lake.

"I'm going to my office because it is nice and cool," said geologist Tom Elliott, 31, after taking a swim. "I'm cycling around instead of taking the Tube."

Ever the stalwart, Queen Elizabeth II carried on working. The 96-year-old monarch held a virtual audience with new U.S. ambassador Jane Hartley from the safety of Windsor Castle.

A huge chunk of England, from London in the south to Manchester and Leeds in the north, remained under the country's first "red" warning for extreme heat Tuesday, meaning there is

In Spain and neighboring Portugal, hundreds of heat-related deaths have been reported in the heat wave. Climate experts warn that global warming has increased the frequency of extreme weather events, with studies showing that the likelihood of temperatures in the U.K. reaching 40 C (104 F) is now 10 times higher than in the pre-industrial era.

The head of the U.N. weather agency expressed hope that the heat gripping Europe would serve as a "wake-up call" for governments to do more on climate change. Other scientists used the milestone moment to underscore that it was time to act.

"While still rare, 40C is now a reality of British summers," said Friederike Otto, Senior Lecturer in Climate Science at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute for Climate Change. "Whether it will become a

## Man drowns at Baby Beach



**Around 3pm on Monday, authorities were alerted about a person who floated away while swimming at Baby Beach. Police arrived right away and started talking to those present who witnessed what happened.**

Family of the missing person, of Indian nationality, informed police that their loved one, who was in his 40s, went into the sea and wasn't seen again. Right away police started a search around and in the sea, but without results.

The family members and others nearby were searching, but it wasn't until after 5pm that a person saw something floating downstream at Baby Beach, and police mobilized to the area. They found something floating and personnel from the Fire Department and other people went into the water and brought out a body, which was floating face down.

An ambulance was present, and paramedics started resuscitation imme-



dately according to protocol, even though they couldn't find a pulse. The family was in shock, and victim support personnel were present to help the family. Ambulance personnel after a while trying resuscitation confirmed that nothing more could be done, and called for the forensic doctor to arrive and confirm the death.

Police Chiefs from San Nico-



las and the police commis- also present to assist during sary Ms. Trudy Hassel were the tragedy. □

## According to minister Arends: Sufficient basis for an increase in bus fare



**Regarding the petition received from a group of bus drivers, minister of Transport, Mr. Ursell Arends solicited official advice from the Department of Public Transportation (DTP). In a letter addressed to United Bus Drivers (Chauffeur di Autobus Uni), minister Arends elaborated on his considerations for the request.**

Among other things, the minister noted that the last fare increase was in 2015, and minimum wage was adapted in 2019 and 2020. Also the minister mentioned that it must be considered that the recent price increase for gasoline and diesel might be temporary.

Arends in his deliberation declared that 'based on the abovementioned considerations, I consider that there is sufficient basis to evaluate a fare increase for bus, and thus commit myself to initiating the process'.

A change in the bus fare is tied to a change in law, to be specific, the Landsbesluit personenvervoer AB 1997 GT 4. A change in this law must pass through the advice body Raad van Advies before, and must go through its due process, something that can take a few months. For this reason, the minister asked the group of United Bus Drivers to declare a cool-off period in order to have the necessary space to



duly go through the legal process. Arends commented that 'dealing with problems and structural solutions has preference over ad hoc solutions for temporary situations'. He was referring to the current price of gasoline and also to the fact that the University of Aruba is carrying out a study to determine the 'carrying capacity' of public transportation, which also includes busses – that is the amount of permit holders, routes as well as the fare.

The minister declared that he will keep the bus drivers involved in the whole process and he counts with their understanding and cooperation to reach a solution that both

the bus drivers and users can live with.

As Aruba Today reported, last Friday small bus drivers came together and gathered in the parking lot of the Linear Park to march together, guided by the police, to the Bestuurskantoor – the government seat – to deliver a letter. The group United Bus Drivers handed a petition to the government to increase the bus fare with 1 florin, because their expenses are becoming too high to manage.

The drivers in their letter brought a proposal to increase the fare in accordance with the increase in the price of gasoline and diesel. □

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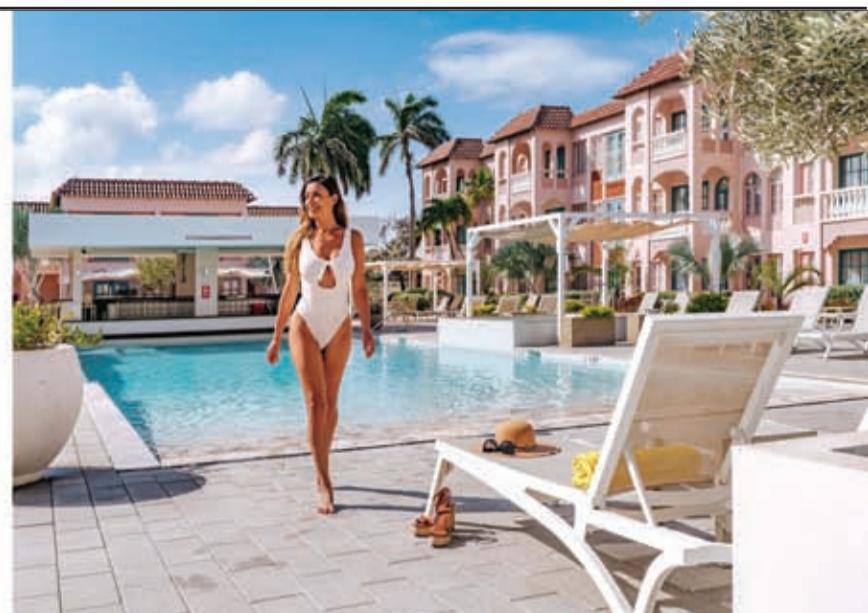
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**ORANJESTAD —** One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.



## Aqua Grill restaurant: The taste of New England with Caribbean flair

### 'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's. American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

### Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.



### Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Little Neck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen.

After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted? You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass, Cioppino or Blackened Tuna are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more. □

### Aqua Grill

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Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

**Aruba National Archives extends 3C campaign**

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba National Archives (ANA) has extended its 3C campaign for six weeks. The 3C campaign encourages the community to submit archival materials, for example, historical documents, photographs, and audiovisual and digital files to ANA.

This material tells the history of Aruba, and ANA will preserve it for future generations.

The ANA preserves and protects valuable historic government archives, documents, photographs, audiovisual material, digital files of individuals and entities. The ANA is responsible for managing and conserving Aruba's cultural heritage.

Minister of Culture Xiomara Maduro is grateful to all who contribute with archival material to this campaign and encourages all citizens, public and private entities,

and organizations to participate.

Marens Engelhard, a former senior archivist of the Netherlands, stated that what we archive today would determine the image future generations would have of our times. Selecting what to archive for the unknown future is a fascinating and responsible task, but not an easy one. Therefore, let it be a joint effort to preserve our history.

You can bring your archival material to ANA from Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 11:45 am and 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

The Minister of Culture emphasizes that it is essential to know the history and culture of Aruba. We need to know our past to understand our present and where we need to be in the future. Archiving our history is essential for all of us! □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Island's hunters & gatherers

**Etnia Nativa through Island Insight facilitates cultural awareness, education and safeguards Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind. Be encouraged to discover in every episode the true native effect, live it, discover more reasons to love Aruba behind our beaches by liven up your stay in an incredibly wonderful way.**

Our island is a tiny tourist destination with a fragile ecosystem, covering thousands of years of history. Here is where Etnia Nativa's main objective comes to mind through educating the readers over Aruba's heritage. We believe in when you love and value what you have; ones greatest desire becomes to protect it.

In this episode we share a bit of the archaic history of our island and evidence of their long ago presence. Artifacts like stone tools, projectiles heads and objects belonging to these peoples and part of oursalvige collection at Etnia Nativa.

Aproximally twelve thousand years ago nothing stood in the way of the hunters and gatherers and no part of the new world, if it offered enough resources to sustain life easier, seems to have been too far out of reach.

By this time the landscape of Aruba was covered with a greater amount of flora, so that the general condition in which these ancient marauders found the island upon their arrival were in all respects much more favorable. These hunters and gatherers were able to read atmospheric variations and predict favorable weather

conditions such as rain and the seasonal fruits of the sea which contributed to an easy and sustainable way of life in a harsh and wild environment.

In those times the landscape and topography of the island offered areas where people could walk for hours under a tropical forest where the trees blocked the entrance of sunlight. In this exuberant mixed vegetation were ferns, orchids, vines and bromeliads, etc was part of the floral list. Many of these plants must be considered extinct varieties as they disappeared over time.

Who knows what medicinal properties, food source, color pigment, or even an effective insect or vermin repellent qualities some of those plants might have had? Although being a small island, there were also open grasslands or savannahs covered with cacti and xerophytes, while other areas were made up of natural wetlands and salt pans. However, there were no mango trees or coconut palms, no tamarind juice, watermelons, aloe horses or donkeys but the four elements: fire, wind, water and earth were the mother of all things.

We must imagine that the southern

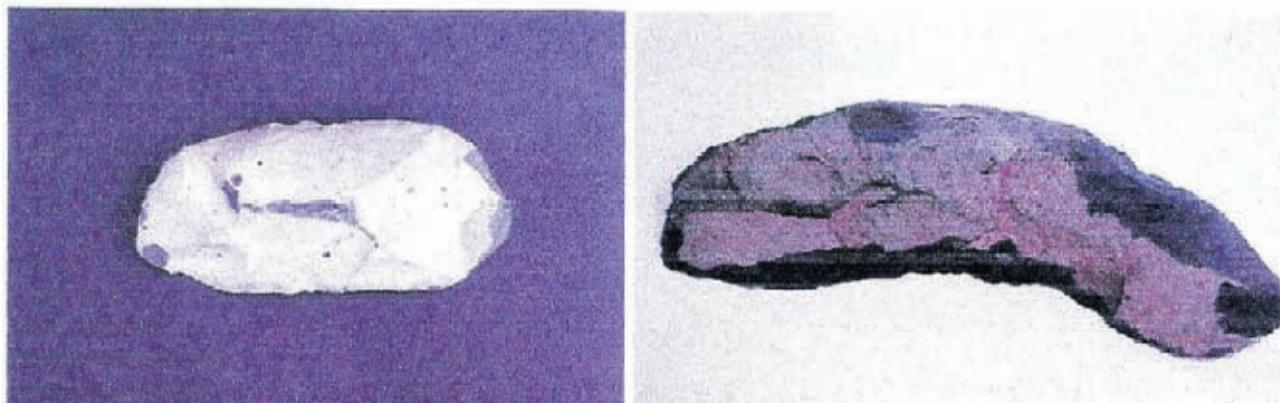
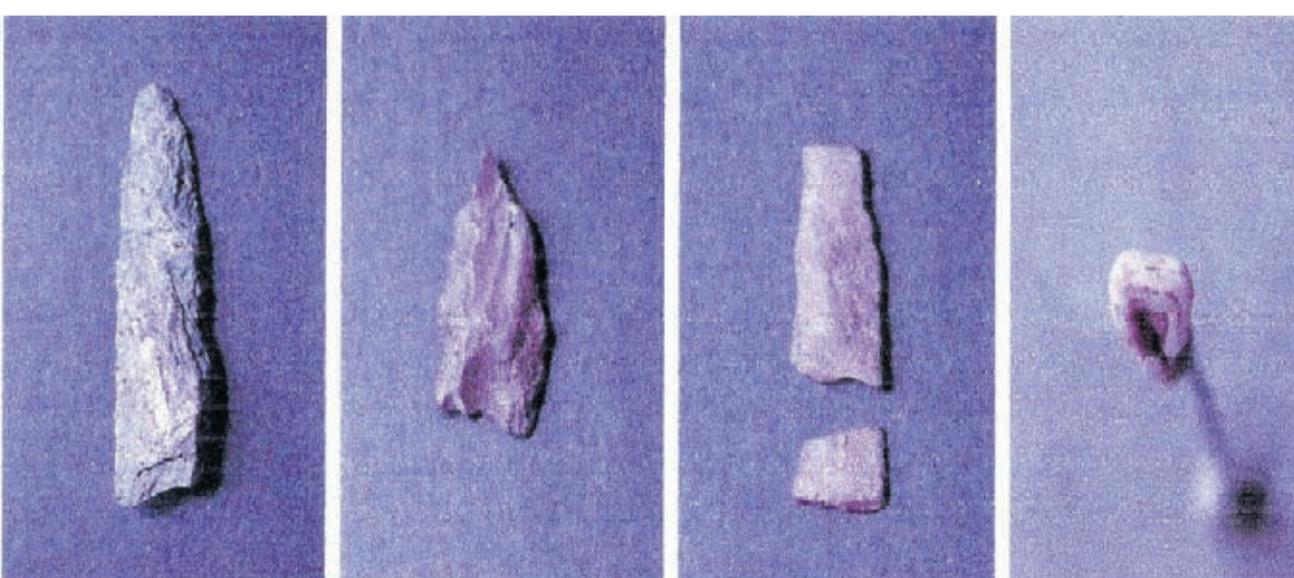
coast was covered by impenetrable mangrove forests that offered abundant marine resources, including timber. These coastal forests grew so thick and dense that they only gave way in places to reach the coast with canoes dug out of tree trunks. Coastal access points that eventually became bays and some are still in use today. Places like the Commanduersbaai in Savaneta or the Spanish Lagoon and Barcadera. There was an entrance that went inland at the lagoen in Oranjestad and a sandy beach called Taratata. Taratata, is the only place that kept a toponym given by our archaic visitors.

Taratata probably stands for the place of arrival, and related to Taratara in Venezuela which means place of departure in the paleolithic language. Unfortunately, Taratata has been absorbed into the expansion of the Paardenbaai along with his name, today almost forgotten.

In the early Paleolithic era, the occupation of the American continent began by archaic hunters who were pursuing large mammals such as the North American mammoth, giant sloths and prehistoric bison. A possible which they could reach the Caribbean was from the pan handle of Florida hopping from island to island until reaching the south of the continent or jumping from the Yucatan peninsula to Cuba and back, while the most likely route of access to Aruba has been from the South American continent. Where the distance form out of the isthmus of Paraguana where sea levels must have been probably much lower extending the land closer to the island and may be even that the island joined the continental mass of South America beyond sea level.

If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa: a cozy museum/home.

**Etnia Nativa a private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials. Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com**



## Zaida Everon: The endeavor for nutritious bread for her children became a unique bakery

**From biologist to baker – Zaida Everon says that it's thanks to her knowledge of biology that her sourdough bread is beloved, all the way to New York and other parts of the United States, because 'I never ate such a good bread', as her clients abroad tell her.**

Zaida Everon was known as one of the best cyclists, specialized in mountain biking, of Aruba. But she was also a teacher at Colegio Arubano [secondary education] and mother of two children, who also were very active in the sports world.

Zaida Everon was known as a very disciplined sports-woman. She would wake up hours before any competition in order to eat well and give her body time to digest the food. That meant waking up at 4 or 5 in the morning was never something unusual for her. But once her children started standing out in their own sports disciplines, she left her own sport aside in order to dedicate the time to them. Everon left her bike aside and was focused on



her children's well-being, as aside from school, they also dedicated a lot of time to gymnastics. And that was the moment when Zaida really started focusing on what her children were eating. Her focus was on nutrition, and so she started reading about nutrition and particularly bread, which in Aruba is practically carbohydrates without much nutritional value. But during this period, Zaida was traveling with her children for their international competitions, and something that caught her attention

was all the small and artisanal bakeries wherever she went. "In Aruba we are used to buying commercial bread, which is heavily processed."

### Sourdough

The idea to secure better food motivated Zaida to read and find information, and that's how she came upon sour dough, bread with fermented dough. Sour dough is bread with a lot of vitamins, and it wasn't very common in Aruba. "The more I read about this bread, the more I realized how nutritious it is." Zaida says that this type of bread, sour dough, made her change her mind about bread, that it's actually good, but it needs to be a good bread and not one very processed. Zaida found her bread.

In order to make sour bread, yeast is needed. But to get the dough with yeast, it's not simply a question of combining the flour and the culture, the right balance is needed. "It took me about eight months to find the first sour dough bread which tasted good to eat", Everon says. But what was also fermenting in her head was the idea to start her own bread business, the same sort of artisanal bakery that she observed abroad.

With a sour dough which finally tasted good, and the realization that she had another challenge to overcome, Zaida decided to change course. After toying with the idea in 2018, beginning 2019 she took a course on bread in Aruba, and took the drastic step of retiring as a teacher at Colegio Arubano. "I had so much to give, a lot of creativity to just limit myself and stay in one place. So I decided to leave."

Zaida decided to dedicate herself to becoming a baker. Initially she experi-



mented with her family, she would gift them bread to have with coffee and everyone accepted it gladly. Her family would ask her for bread, and at a certain point she started charging, and no one minded paying. She expanded her circle to her ex-colleagues at Colegio Arubano, and the reaction was similar. As a good biologist, she knew that once the flavor is in, the want for more became natural, and this allowed Zaida to charge for her bread, all made at home.

And literally by word of mouth, Zaida's name and her bread's reputation reached businessmen. "I didn't dare on my own to approach business owners. I was selling with family, neighbors, and acquaintances. I would send messages on WhatsApp with a description and a story, and an ex-colleague took the message and sent it to her friends circle. That's how the client base expanded."

In record time, without much experience in marketing but with tireless energy, Zaida started exhibiting her product, among other, at the Cadushi Festival, and this resulted in more clients. At the start of 2020, she was getting more orders and her business doubled, and she was delivering bread twice a week. The pandemic, which made its mark in Aruba in March 2020, could have been a problem, but around 50 of her clients asked Zaida to continue producing the bread and what's more, she expanded her produc-

tion with sweet rolls, which she sold through Island Grind. "So we grew together. They found clients for me and I found clients for them." Social media contributed to her reputation and the delivery of bread grew from twice a week to four times a week. Nowadays, her bakery is open six days a week, Monday through Saturday, although they don't bake on Saturday.

### T2Pan

Zaida started alone with her bakery, and now she has two full-time employees and two freelance, aside from her children who also lend a hand helping with sales and administration. Her bakery's name is T2, a variation of her dad's name, Tito. The official name is T2 Pan Sourdough Bread Boutique, and the bakery collaborates with specialized restaurants and with chefs. The first chef who approached Zaida to make special bread according to a theme was Urvin Croes (of Infini restaurant); but now even chefs from New York have ordered her bread. "The chef wanted this bread specifically." The reason is because Zaida can combine specific ingredients according to the theme of the menu. And the reason the bread from T2 is so well-liked is the starter – that is, the yeast culture which she created herself. Each is different and Zaida's knowledge of biology contributed to a unique starter, which is the base for all her bread, which is now transcending borders. □



**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

1 Job for a lawyer

45 Dede undoer

5 Houston team

11 Farm team

12 Cube face

13 Pinochle score

14 Prospector's find

15 Completely

16 Floral rings

17 Like some testimony

19 In shape

22 Sore spots

24 The ones here

26 Italy's shape

27 Baseball's Rodriguez

28 Explode

30 Cove

31 Suitable

32 Ice, in bars

34 Snug

35 Rooster's mate

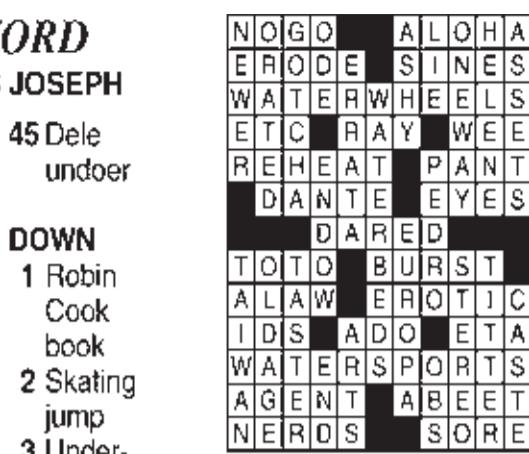
38 Arizona native

41 Murder mystery find

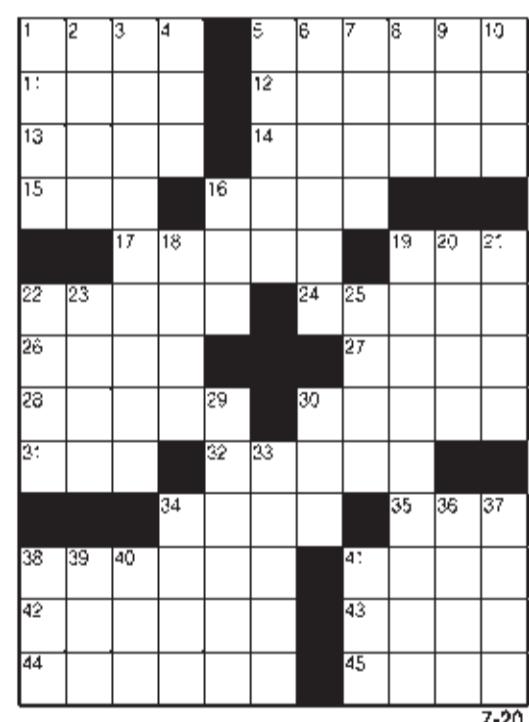
42 Primitive primate

43 Longing

44 "Bonanza" star Lorne

**Yesterday's answer**

- |                         |                  |                    |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 4 Conclude              | 19 Didn't        | 30 Frigid          |
| 5 Ed of "Up"            | meet             | 33 Fresh air       |
| 6 React to bright light | expectations     | 34 Arrived         |
| 7 Gentle pulls          | 20 "Got it"      | 36 Keenness        |
| 8 Dusting cloth         | 21 Phone message | 37 Russian refusal |
| 9 Smelter supply        | 22 "Fer-hando"   | 38 Old horse       |
| 10 Match part           | 23 Overthrow     | 39 Spring mo.      |
| 16 —                    | 25 Slugger Aaron | 40 Neckline shape  |
| 18 Angeles              | 29 Hector,       | 41 City vehicle    |
| 19 Moistens             | for one          |                    |

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGHOLLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Ls, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-20

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

Q R M Q ' P N Y X P F M J J P Q X H

S N A M F M Y , N Y X V L M Y Q J X M H

S N A F M Y T L Y W . Y X L J

M A F P Q A N Y V

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** THE MOON IS A FRIEND FOR THE LONESOME TO TALK TO. — CARL SANDBURG

**Automakers targeting average households with new crop of EVs**

By TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

**WARREN, Mich. (AP)** — In their first rollouts of electric vehicles, America's automakers targeted people who value short-range economy cars. Then came EVs for luxury buyers and drivers of pickups and delivery vans.

Now, the companies are zeroing in at the heart of the U.S. auto market: The compact SUV. In their drive to have EVs dominate vehicle sales in coming years, the automakers are promoting their new models as having the range, price and features to rival their gas-powered competitors. Some are so far proving quite popular. Ford's \$45,000-plus Mustang Mach E is sold out for the model year. On Monday night, General Motors' Chevrolet brand introduced an electric version of its Blazer, also starting around \$45,000, when it goes on sale next summer.

Also coming next year: An electric Chevy Equinox, with a base price of about \$30,000, whose price could give it particular appeal with modest-income households. There's also the Hyundai Ioniq 5 and Volkswagen's ID.4 in the \$40,000s and Nissan's upcoming Ariya around \$47,000 with a lower-priced version coming.

All start off considerably less expensive than Tesla's Model Y small SUV, the current top EV seller, with a starting price well into the \$60,000s.

The new models, which can get about 300 miles per electric charge, are aimed at the largest segment of the U.S. market: Modest-size SUVs, rep-



The 2024 Chevrolet SS EV is shown in Warren, Mich., Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Associated Press

resenting about 20% of new-vehicle sales. Industry experts say entering the smaller SUV segment, with its reach into a broader demographic of buyers, is sure to boost electric vehicle sales nationally.

"Going to the smaller utility segment gives you the opportunity to access the most customers in one (market) segment," said Stephanie Brinley, principal analyst for S&P Global Mobility.

"To make a transition from (internal combustion engines) to electric, you have to be in more space. You have to be in more price points. You have to be in more sizes."

Brinley noted that the small and midsize SUV segments meet many people's needs, something that previous electric vehicles did not.

"If it's a price you can reach but it's a product that you can't put your kids and your dog in, you're not going to buy it," she said. Chevrolet says the Blazer will get a minimum of 247 miles (398 kilometers) per charge. Pricier high-end

versions could go up to 320 miles (515 kilometers). The Blazer will be available with Chevrolet's SS performance package with a zero-to-60 mph (97 kilometers per hour) time of under four seconds. There will be a police version, too.

"Early on, the demographic composition of an EV buyer was certainly someone that perhaps had higher education, higher household income," said Steve Majoros, Chevrolet's marketing director.

"That's very indicative of early adopters. But as we move up that curve, the intention and where we're pricing this product is to certainly make it more available for more mainstream buyers."

Automakers have been pushing to fully restore a \$7,500 tax credit for people who buy EVs to jump-start sales. But the measure is stalled in Congress. It's especially important for GM, Tesla and Toyota, which have maxed out the number of credits they are allowed and can no longer offer them to buyers.

Other automakers are approaching the limit, too.

Money for the credits, as well as funding for additional EV charging stations, was in President Joe Biden's \$1.8 trillion "Build Back Better" social and environment bill, which is all but dead because of the objections of Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat. □

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**Editor**

**Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.**  
**Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668**  
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**Acc. #23951903**  
**RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772**

**Assistant Director**

Xiomara Arends

**Editors**

Pilar Flores  
Richard Brooks

**Sales**

Sulaika Croes

**Classifieds**

[classified@cspnv.com](mailto:classified@cspnv.com)

**Distribution and Collection**

[accounting@bondia.com](mailto:accounting@bondia.com)

**Social / Website**

Juan Luis Pinto

**Columnists**

Anthony Croes

**Weststraat 22**

T: 582-7800

E: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com)

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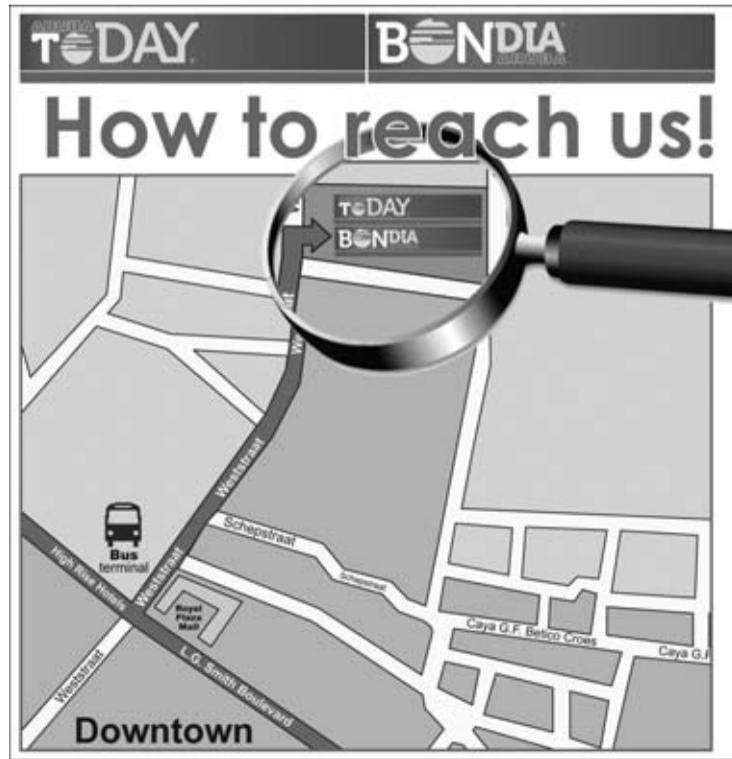
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## Mexican art of mariachi takes center stage on U.S. stamps

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

**Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) —

There are few corners of the globe where the echoes of mariachi music have yet to reach, filling street corners with the sounds of the blasting trumpets and strumming guitars that form the backbone of Mexico's traditional genre.

Now, all that festive fever is being packed into a tiny U.S. postage stamp.

The U.S. Postal Service on Friday celebrated the release of a new series of stamps honoring mariachi. The first-day-of-issue ceremony was held in New Mexico's largest city as musicians and fans from around the world convened for a weekend of concerts hosted by the 30th annual Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque.

The five graphic stamps were the creation of artist Rafael López, who lives and works in both Mexico and San Diego. Each features an individual performer dressed in traditional cloth-



This image provided by the U.S. Postal Service shows a special series of mariachi stamps designed by artist Rafael Lopez.

ing with their instrument. While the outfits are ornate, the backgrounds are simple and bright, inspired by the palette of another Mexican craft papel picado, the banners of elaborate paper cutouts that are often put up for parties and other events.

While mystery surrounds the origins of mariachi, López said there's no doubt the beats and rhythms that evolved over centuries in tiny Mexican villages are now known around the globe. There's something special about mariachi's celebratory nature and La-

tinos are proud to be able to share that with other cultures, López said.

And having it recognized now on the stamps is a bonus, said Robert Palacios, executive director of the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference, which is held every November in the border city.

Palacios, 32, plays the guitarrón and credits the music for keeping him out of trouble when he was in middle school.

"It just turned things around for me," he said. "That's what I wanted to do and now 20 years later I'm the

director of the mariachi conference and just working to keep it alive. So it's full circle for me, being a student and now being able to share that passion." The effect of mariachi can be like magic, Lopez said, leaving people in a festive mood and turning strangers into quick friends. But he can't explain whether it's the beat, the outfits, the singing or everything combined. "It's a universal thing that mariachi has and it's hard to explain," he said, during an interview from his studio in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

**Associated Press**

"We all need a little bit of a moment to relax and feel happy once in a while and this music does it," he added. "So I think that's something that makes us Latinos very proud to see something that started in this region of Mexico and all of a sudden it becomes part of the Southwest culture, it becomes part of the United States as well. Before you know it, it's universal, it's international." López grew up in Mexico City surrounded by mariachi music. He plays the guitar, the violin and the six-string guitarrón that provides the bass line for a mariachi ensemble. He knows where each band member needs to place their hands to create that special tone. And that's reflected in the images on the postage stamps. The images also were inspired by movie posters from Mexico's golden era of cinema during the 1940s and '50s and by travel posters put out by the U.S. government in the late 1930s and early '40s. □

## Review: Bourland autopsies the princess myth with precision

By DONNA EDWARDS

**Associated Press**

It's about time someone took the princess story that's normalized to girls and autopsy it with absolute precision.

"The Force of Such Beauty" opens on the night of Caroline's second attempt at escaping Lucomo, the small European country in which she became a princess. But author Barbara Bourland quickly jumps back in time to reveal every excruciating and exhilarating detail that led to this moment. Once caught up, the story sadistically marches on to the very end of Caroline's breathtaking story.

Caroline is from South Africa. Her first race was two months after Nelson Mandela became president in 1990. Her white parents volunteered their time and

limited resources to ending Apartheid. Then they threw themselves into Caroline and her burgeoning running career, which brought her all the way to a world-record-shattering gold at the Olympics.

But that was before the fall that ground her running career to a shattering halt. And it's not for the faint of heart; Bourland holds no punches with absolutely gruesome descriptions of medical trauma.

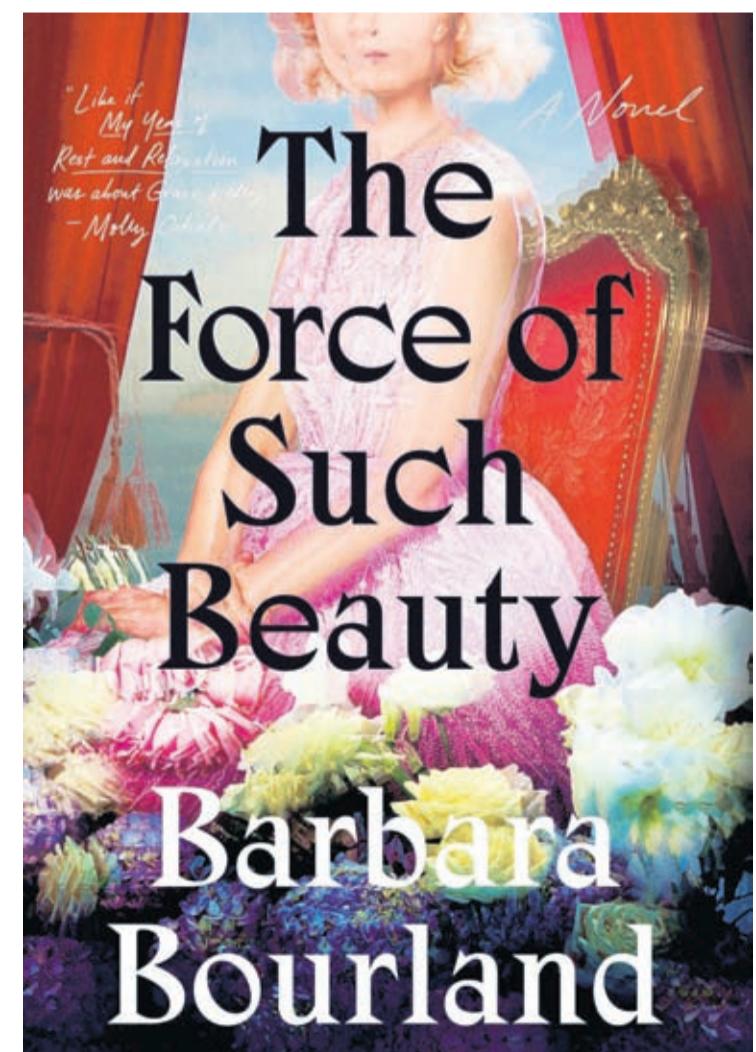
The silver lining? This life-altering tragedy leads our heroine directly to a prince through a meeting of happenstance at a glitzy medical recovery center.

The red flags are there from the beginning. The stage is set for misery. Bourland reveals from the first handful of pages that Caroline is trapped at wit's end on dis-

play as lover Finn's gleaming jewel sequestered in the castle. Yet the writing is smart enough, the story good enough, to get swept away in their chemistry until reality comes crashing back.

Carefully crafted wordplay flits through the pages. Dr. Sun "treats" Caroline's depression, the castle they live in is called the Talon and the name of the country, Lucomo, literally means king.

Descriptions fit for dreams or nightmares, vivid and evocative, capture how one's environment can affect everything, like the secluded cottage where Caroline and Finn's love feels timeless and unshakable, or the red dirt of Johannesburg that is so home to Caroline that she tastes it in her mouth. □



This cover image released by Dutton shows "The Force of Such Beauty," a novel by Barbara Bourland.

**Associated Press**



United States' Alex Morgan is congratulated after scoring her side's opening goal from the penalty spot against Canada during the CONCACAF Women's Championship final soccer match in Monterrey, Mexico, Monday, July 18, 2022.

Associated Press

## U.S. beats Canada for W Championship title, '24 Olympic berth

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)

— Alex Morgan never gets tired of winning championships, even after so many titles already.

Morgan converted on a penalty in the 78th minute and the U.S. women's national team won the CONCACAF W Championship 1-0 over Canada on Monday night to secure one of the region's spots in the 2024 Olympics.

"It just always feels good to be called the champion, and this game just, like, means a lot to us. It's always going to mean a lot," Morgan said. "Obviously against Canada, they gave us a run for our money, but we prevailed and feel good about the performance."

As FIFA President Gianni Infantino watched from a private box, the United States finally broke a stalemate when Rose Lavelle was fouled in the box and Morgan fooled Canadian goalkeeper Kailen Sheridan on the penalty. It was Morgan's 118th overall career goal.

"Alex is a big player, and big players are born for big moments," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said. "And that's what makes her special."

Jamaica defeated Costa Rica 1-0 in overtime earlier Monday to claim third place in the tournament.

The four semifinalists all earlier earned spots in the 2023 World Cup next summer in Australia and New Zealand. Runner-up Canada will play Jamaica in a play-off for the region's other Olympic bid in September 2023. The United States is now 33-0 in World Cup or Olympic qualifying matches since losing to Mexico 2-1 in advance of the 2011 World Cup.

The game was a rematch of the Olympic semifinal a year ago in Tokyo. Canada edged the United States 1-0 on a late penalty kick to advance to the final, its first victory over the Americans in 20 years.

The Canadians went on to win the gold medal on a penalty shootout with Sweden. The U.S. team finished with the bronze.

Alyssa Naeher was in goal for the United States instead of Casey Murphy, who started the last game at the tournament. Defender Emily Fox also returned to the lineup from COVID-19 protocol.

The United States has changed since the Olympics, and Morgan is now one of the older players on the roster surrounded by

up-and-coming talent like forward Sophia Smith and Mallory Pugh.

But the team has clearly benefitted from the steady veteran presence of Morgan, Megan Rapinoe and Becky Sauerbrunn. All three are veterans of two World Cup titles and know what it takes to perform on the big stage.

Temperatures hovered in the low 90s at the start of the match at Estadio BBVA. Sheridan had a big save in the 31st minute when Pugh made a break down the right side and took a hard shot at the goal.

She made another in the 45th, with an assist from teammate Kadeisha Buchanan, on Smith's scramble to score at the goal line. Smith had another chance in the 64th, but it went wide.

Canada had a flurry of late opportunities, including a header from Jordyn Huitema that went wide.

"I think what I was most pleased with is, after you get that penalty call, the bounce back from the group after that, they showed that they were willing to do anything to get the result back. So we gave it everything and that's all you can ask," Canada coach Bev Priestman said. □



Stage winner Canada's Hugo Houle points skywards and dedicates his victory to his brother Pierrick who was killed by a drunk driver almost 10 years ago, as he crosses the finish line of the sixteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 178.5 kilometers (111 miles) with start in Carcassonne and finish in Foix, France, Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

Associated Press

## Houle takes emotional Tour stage win, Vingegaard keeps lead

FOIX, France (AP) —

Canadian cyclist Hugo Houle claimed an emotional first-ever grand tour stage victory on Tuesday, while Jonas Vingegaard stayed in the overall lead of the Tour de France after a tough 16th stage as the race hit the Pyrenees.

Houle attacked on the approach to the final climb, the top category Mur de Péguère, and held off the group of chasers from the remnants of the breakaway to finish one minute, 10 seconds ahead of Valentin Madouas and Israel-Premier Tech teammate Michael Woods.

Houle had plenty of time to reach his arms out in celebration on the approach to the line and point to the sky in memory of his brother, Pierrick, who was killed 10 years ago in a hit-and-run car accident while out jogging.

"This one is for my brother," he could be heard saying as he was embraced by his team after the 178.5-kilometer (111-mile) leg from Carcassonne to Foix that featured four classified climbs — including two top-category ascents.

"This means a lot to me," Houle told reporters shortly afterward, with his voice breaking as he struggled to hold back the tears.

"I had one dream: win the stage for my brother

who died when I turned professional. Today that one is for him. I worked for 10, 12 years and today I got my win for him, so it's incredible. I don't know what to say, just so happy."

The 31-year-old Houle had crested the final climb with a 25-second advantage and his task was made easier when American cyclist Matteo Jorgenson — who was second at the time and in hot pursuit — slipped out on a corner, leaving only Woods with a realistic chance of catching his compatriot and teammate. It was only the second time a Canadian has won a stage in the Tour, and the first in 34 years.

Two-time defending champion Tadej Pogačar tried to attack several times on the penultimate climb of the Port de Lers — twice on the ascent and again on the descent — but Vingegaard stayed on his wheel.

They crossed the line together and Vingegaard maintained his lead of 2:22 over Pogačar and 2:43 over Geraint Thomas, the 2018 champion.

Wednesday's 17th stage is an even tougher day in the Pyrenees with three top classified climbs, as well as a second-category ascent, on the 129.7-kilometer (81-mile) route from Saint-Gaudens with a summit finish at the ski resort of Peyragudes. □

## Major disappointments belong to more than McIlroy

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

The trouble with winning so much so early is that the losing can feel worse than it really is.

The British Open stung Rory McIlroy, even if he said it wasn't life or death. It might have hurt even more than his 80 in the final round of the 2011 Masters. He was only 21 back then, without a major, when talent exceeded expectations.

But then he won a U.S. Open with a record score at Congressional later that year. He won the PGA Championship the following year at Kiawah Island. And two years later, he added his name to the claret jug at Royal Liverpool and won another PGA Championship just four weeks apart. Four majors in four years. Only three other players in the previous century had that many at age 25 or younger — Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.

McIlroy is now 33 and still has four majors, not to mention some gray hair around the edges. His popularity is just as great now as it was then, if not more.

Disappointment? Sure. McIlroy now has gone 30 majors since winning his last one. Perhaps more surprising is the British Open was the first time during that drought he was atop the leaderboard after 54 holes. He did little wrong, and



**Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland reacts after missing a birdie putt on the 14th hole during the final round of the British Open golf championship on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, Sunday July 17, 2022.**

even less right. Imagine having a share of the 54-hole lead in a major, hitting every green in regulation and still not winning. McIlroy two-putted every green. He had two-putt birdies after reaching the par-5 fifth in two and driving the green on the par-4 10th.

The hole really appeared to shrink when Cameron Smith ran off five straight birdies to start the back nine and took the lead. "I had to dig deep to make birdies and I just couldn't," McIlroy said. Just don't get the idea McIlroy was the only player who left St. Andrews — along with two other majors this year — feeling as though

he should have won. It only felt that way because so many wanted him to win.

Save a thought for Cameron Young. He drove into the gorse on the reachable par-4 ninth and turned a look at birdie into a bogey. Young missed a 6-foot birdie chance on the 15th. He wasted a big, bold tee shot on the 16th when his wedge came up short and rolled down the ridge. His two shots on the 17th were better than McIlroy's, only to leave his birdie chance short. And needing something special to have any chance, he drove the 18th green and holed a 15-foot eagle putt

that was only good for a silver medal.

He will have just as many "what if" moments as McIlroy. And that's just from St. Andrews. Young, the best PGA Tour rookie this year, also made a three-putt double bogey on the 16th hole to finish one shot out of a playoff at the PGA Championship.

Will Zalatoris wasn't a factor at St. Andrews. He had to settle for a pair of runner-up finishes in the majors this year.

Zalatoris three-putted from 20 feet on the 16th hole at Southern Hills in the PGA Championship. He wound up losing in a playoff to Justin Thomas. And then at

**Associated Press**

Brookline for the U.S. Open, he narrowly missed a 15-foot putt on the final hole to force a playoff.

One player stands out over the others, and it's a product of expectations. Jordan Spieth knows the feeling. He won the Masters and U.S. Open, was one putt away from a playoff at St. Andrews for the third leg of the Grand Slam, and was runner-up in the PGA. That's a once-in-a-career performance in the majors. Spieth was 21, in his third year as a pro. Good luck living up to that, though it's a nice problem to have.

Does it make it worse or better that McIlroy was the only player to finish in the top 10 at all four majors this year without winning?

The last player to do that was Rickie Fowler in 2014, a distant memory because Fowler hasn't won a major (and now is on the verge of falling out of the top 150 in the world ranking).

There is some truth to McIlroy's immediate assessment Sunday evening. He was beat more than he lost. Smith shot 30 on the back nine — Jack Nicklaus (1986) and Gary Player (1978) did that when they won the Masters — and his 64 was the lowest closing score by an Open champion at St. Andrews. Among the great closing rounds in Open history, it rivals the 65 by Phil Mickelson when he won at Muirfield in 2013. □



**Major League Baseball Players Association Executive Director Tony Clark answers a question at a press conference in their offices in New York, Friday, March 11, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Tony Clark appears likely to stay on as head of the baseball players' association.

"There's a lot of work that needs to be done, and I am more than committed to continue to do it," the former All-Star first baseman told the Baseball Writ-

## Tony Clark appears likely to stay on as baseball union head

ers' Association of America on Tuesday.

Now 50, Clark took over as union head in late 2013 following the death of Michael Weiner. Clark led the union during labor negotiations in 2016 and during the deal in March that followed a 99-day lockout. The new agreement expires in December 2026.

director of collective bargaining and legal.

The union's key decisions are made by a 38-man executive committee, which includes an eight-man executive subcommittee. Seven of the eight members of the executive subcommittee made \$12 million or more in 2021 and the other made \$3.5 million. While the executive subcommittee voted 8-0 against approving the five-year contract, team player representatives voted 26-4 in favor, leaving the over-

all ballot at 26-12 for ratification. Clark said voices are heard from lower-paid members of the union.

"The veteran players were the most vocal players about improving the system for the younger players," Clark said. "They recognize the changes that were happening in the game and they recognize because they are in the clubhouse with the young players and wanting to let them know that they had their back when sitting down to negotiate." □